CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for sharing information, comprising:

a first adapter module, associated with a first resource and operable to translate one or more data items from the first resource and further operable to distribute the translated data items in response to a change in one or more of the data items;

a system server module, operable to receive the translated data items from the first adapter module and further operable to process the data items; and

a second adapter module, associated with a second resource and operable to receive the processed data items from the system server module.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the first resource and the second resource comprise different types of telecommunications and computing systems.

3.   The system of claim 2 wherein one of the resources is a personal computer.

4.   The system of claim 2 wherein on of the resources is a videoconferencing system.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the system server module instantiates at least one virtual server to receive, process, and distribute the data items.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and the second adapter modules comprise a resource module and a consumer module.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the first adapter module is resident on the first resource and the second adapter module is resident on the second resource.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the first adapter module is not resident on the first resource.

9.   A system for sharing information, comprising:

a system server module,

operable to receive one or more input data items from a first adapter module,

further operable to process the received input data items into one or more output data items in response to a request from a resource; and

further operable to distribute the output data items to a second adapter module associated with the resource.

10.   The system of claim 9 wherein the system server module instantiates at least one virtual server to receive and process the input data items and distribute the output data items.

11.   The system of claim 9 wherein the first adapter module and the second adapter module reside on telecommunications and computing systems.

12.   The method of claim 9 wherein the processing of the received data includes resizing an image in response to a request by the resource specifying a maximum image size.

13. A method for sharing information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a first input data instance from a first resource;

translating the first input data instance;

sending the translated first input data instance to a system server module;

capturing a second input data instance;

if the second input data instance is different from the first input data instance, translating the second data instance; and

if the second input data instance is different from the first input data instance, sending the translated second input data instance to the system server module.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the first resource is a personal computer and the first and second data instances are desktop images.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of translating the first input data instance is responsive to a request from the system server module.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of translating the first input data instance includes resizing an image in response to a request by the system server module specifying a maximum image size.

17.   A method for sharing information between a personal computer and a videoconferencing system, comprising the steps of

capturing an input data instance from the videoconferencing system;

translating the input data instance;

sending the translated input data instance to a system server module;

processing the input data instance into an output data instance by the system server module;

distributing the output data instance to an adapter module associated with the personal computer;

translating the output data instance; and

presenting the output data instance by the personal computer.

18.   The method of claim 17 wherein the step of translating the input data instance includes sizing a video image to a size specified by the personal computer.

19.   The method of claim 17 wherein the adapter module is not resident on the personal computer and the personal computer receives the translated output data instance over a distributed network.

20. A method for sharing information between at least two personal computers, comprising the steps of

capturing an input data instance from a first personal computer;

translating the input data instance;

sending the translated input data instance to a system server module;

processing the input data instance into an output data instance by the system server module;

distributing the output data instance to an adapter module associated with a second personal computer;

translating the output data instance; and

presenting the output data instance by the second personal computer.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of translating the input data instance is responsive to a request by the system server module.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the input data instance from the first personal computer is a desktop image and the step of translating the input data instance includes sizing the desktop image to a size specified by the second personal computer.

23.   A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a method for sharing information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a first input data instance from a first resource;

translating the first input data instance;

sending the translated first input data instance to a system server module;

capturing a second input data instance;

if the second input data instance is different from the second input data instance, translating the second data instance; and

if the second input data instance is different from the second input data instance, sending the translated second input data instance to the system server module.

24.   The computer-readable storage device of claim 23 wherein the first resource is a personal computer and the first and second data instances are desktop images.

25.   The computer-readable storage device of claim 23 wherein the step of translating the first input data instance is responsive to a request from the system server module.

26.   The computer-readable storage device of claim 23 wherein the step of translating the first input data instance includes resizing an image in response to a request by the system server module specifying a maximum image size.